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Preliminary project title within which thesis is conceptualized: *Remembering and Constructing Memories of the Past for Futures in Education*, Project ReCoM-PaFE

Preliminary thesis title: *Remembering and Constructing Memories across Time*

Preliminary thesis abstract:

The act of remembering is complex and not as straightforward as one might think. History is a messy business and troubling taken-for-granted historical memories is certain to create discomfort for individuals and collectives. However, to know whither we are going, we need to regularly look backward. I want to take a closer look at the developments of both the scholarly field of historical linguistics and non-specialist, cultural notions about language and language history. Researching the historical trajectory of words and (named-)languages can help to illuminate conceptualizations of language and language history.

- How do people conceptualize and think about language, languages, and words in general?
- What kind of language do people use to talk about language?
- How has the discipline of pedagogy grappled with these questions across time both generally and in the nation-state of Sweden specifically?
- Are certain ideologies being espoused, explicitly or implicitly, in language scholarship or related to cultural norms and practices?

The overarching goal of my thesis “Remembering and Constructing Memories across Time” (as it stands today) is to consider these questions and to call attention to the importance of recognizing and tracing the geneses of scholarly practices and their effects on how research is carried out, findings are articulated, how these shape society at large, including how circulating discourses feedback into scholarly thinking. I have narrowed down four potential subject areas that could either be used as four separate articles in a compilation thesis or four chapters in a monograph. These four topics have the following working titles:

- 1) What is Historical Linguistics?
- 2) The History of Runology: a Case Study of Ideology and Identity
- 3) Constructing Language Boundaries: Historical Trajectories and Contemporary Categorizing in Swedish Spaces
- 4) Navigating What Lies Ahead: Pedagogical Reflections for the Future

The relevance of these topics lies in their potential to challenge the reductionism inherent in contemporary conceptualizations of language and language concepts and to allow for more dynamic and holistic ways of doing research and teaching.